

THAT SOUTHLAND CALL HIS A REAL CURE FOR HOLDOUTS SUFFERING WITH WRITERS' CRAMP

HOLDOUTS SIGNING RAPIDLY AS DAY OF JAUNT DRAWS NEAR

Players Suffering With Writer's Cramp Now Smearing the Spencerian Stuff on Contract and Awaiting Early Call—Ty Cobb and Joe Bush Unsigned

By ROBERT W. MAXWELL Sports Editor Evening Public Ledger

THE open season for holdouts is rapidly drawing to a close. Big-league ball players who have been suffering with writer's cramp for the last two months will take a turn for the better, smear their Spencerian stuff on the contract and rest up for the next holdout convention, which will be called to order one year hence.

A holdout is a holdout until the season starts. If the club owner weakens and comes through with a raise much joy results, but if there is nothing doing in getting a raise in salary the old figures look healthy enough for one more season. A flock of contracts should pour into the offices of the clubowners until the teams leave on their training jaunts.

Only a few ball players have carried out their threats to retire in the past. They figure it is better to struggle along on five or six hundred a month during the summer than beating the factory whistle at 7 a. m. and working until 5:30 p. m. at \$3 per day. That is the best argument against holding out and it has brought many players in line.

The big holdout of the season, however, is none other than Ty Cobb. Ty has not yet signed a contract and no one is certain that he will. His old agreement, which called for a \$20,000 salary, was last year, and perhaps he wants more. At any rate, Cobb is in a position to retire if he cares to and will be a difficult man to handle. He has been receiving the largest salary ever paid to a ball player, but was worth it as a gate attraction. He also kept Detroit in the race for the pennant. The chances are the Georgian will be well taken care of, as he is too valuable a man to keep on the sidelines.

Joe Bush also is recalcitrant. He admitted it the other night, and says he will not play ball this year unless Harry Frazee boosts the pay check. Bullet Joe lives in Philadelphia and has been working at Cramps' all winter.

UNLESS Joe falls in line soon he is likely to miss the Red Sox boat, which sails from New York next Monday.

Writer's Cramp Would Have Helped This Holdout

A GREAT ball player once decided to become a holdout and put over something new which brought him a slight increase in salary. It was about eight years ago, and the player, whose name we will not mention, was the best pitcher the White Sox ever had. He was successful the previous year, won many ball games and became a big attraction at the gate.

Charley Comiskey sent him a contract, which was returned unsigned. A few weeks later a letter arrived, containing two pages of perfectly good and well-written reasons why an increase in salary should be granted. There were many whys, wherefores and be it resolved stuff in the note, all of which did not make a hit with Comiskey.

He threw the letter on his desk, said he wouldn't come through with another penny, but finally relented and gave the player one-half as much as he asked. That was satisfactory and the contract was signed.

The day before the club left for the training camp this player blew into town and visited the Old Roman. It was just a friendly call—but on the player's side only. Calling the athlete into his private office, Comiskey, opened up on him.

"What do you mean by sending me that lawyer's letter last winter when you kicked about the contract?" he demanded.

"No lawyer never wrote that there letter," replied the player.

"Who wrote it?"

"I did."

"Do you mean to tell me," stormed Comiskey, "that you handed me all of those wherefores and whereases and worked a typewriter?"

"Surest thing you know," was the answer.

"Quit kidding me," said Charley. "You are talking through your hat. You never wrote that note; you had a lawyer do the job and I can prove it. Anyway, you would have received \$1000 more if you had made the kick yourself."

"NOW listen. I know you didn't write a line of that letter, because I saw one you had written to your tailor on the North Side. Remember it? Well, you said, 'Please make me a blue suit like the other one.'"

"And do you know that blue was spelled 'B-L-E-W'?"

Russell Gardner May Purchase Cardinals

THE St. Louis Cardinals are likely to change ownership in a very short time. The community plan has not worked out very well in the Mound City and the 500 stockholders are said to have disposed of their holdings to make a sale possible. Russell Gardner, a wealthy sportsman and brother of the Governor of Missouri, is ready to take over the club, and is in New York today conferring with President Branch Rickey and Vice President Jones on the purchase price.

The Cardinals have been slated for the auction block for years. For some reason or other there never was enough money to conduct affairs properly, there were few purchases of players and the team struggled along in last place. The fans deserted them and very slim crowds turned out to see the games. It has been a losing proposition, and the only thing left to do was to sell the club.

It is almost certain that Gardner will be the next owner. He has the money to get good players, and if the price is not too high an announcement of the change can be expected any day.

If the deal goes through it will be the third National League club to change hands this year. Stoneham purchased the Giants and Grant took over the Braves, thus proving there are a few people left who will invest money in our great national pastime.

Owner Grant stepped into a bunch of trouble at the start. He paid his ball players what he thought they were worth, slashed the salaries of some and fired others. Most of the players signed up, but Charley Herzog still is on the waiting list. The Stormy Petrel has a \$100,000 contract, but Grant says it is too much. He wanted to cut it, but Charley objected.

THEREFORE, Herzog is slated for another job and probably will land with the Yankees. It is said he has been waived out of the National League.

THIRTY members of the Phillies' ball club will depart for Charlotte, N.C., on Monday, March 24, according to the dope handed out by Bill Shethlens. The men will arrive in the training camp on Tuesday morning and the first practice will be held in the afternoon.

President Baker has not yet announced the names of the men under contract, but most of them have signed and only three or four still are holding out. These men are expected to come to terms before the end of the week. There will be several new faces on the team, as Manager Coombs has been busy signing new talent.

Several games will be played in the South, but only two have been scheduled. Washington will be in Charlotte on April 11 and 12, but Coombs expects to arrange half a dozen exhibition contests with the teams down there. He will arrive in Charlotte next Wednesday.

SAM PAYNE, the demon groundskeeper, also will be on hand to manure the diamond and get the clubhouse in shape for the players.

Olympia to Eliminate "Ten-Second" Whistle THE foolish whistle which has been gumming up things at the Olympia has been cast into the discard, and from now on the shrill, ear-splitting blast will be conspicuous by its absence. This was decided upon last Monday night at Arthur Heeb's dinner at the Stenton.

LEON RAINES said the practice would be discontinued in the future and the timekeeper do nothing but pull the bell.

Active Press Agent "Pulls" Another One

THEY surely fall for the bunk stuff in New York. Yesterday one of the evening papers carried a sensational story about Benny Valger during Johnny Kubane to meet him for the featherweight title, and how he was wildly cheered by 5000 fans when he left the ring at the Olympia.

IF VALGER was in Philadelphia that night he was under cover. He was NOT in the ring and did NOT challenge Kubane. It's a small news agent party because it contains nothing but the truth.

WONDER WHAT THE ORCHESTRA LEADER THINKS ABOUT

Cartoon strip with four panels. Panel 1: 'PRETTY LUCKY THEY HAVE ME FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR. BELIEVE ME I'VE PULLED THIS SHOW TOGETHER AND MADE IT A SUCCESS'. Panel 2: 'I THINK THE PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE ARE IMPRESSED WITH MY PERSONAL APPEARANCE. THAT TRAP DRUMMER GIVES ME A PAIN—ALWAYS FLIRTING WITH A CHORUS DAME'. Panel 3: 'I SHALL AFFECT A CARELESS EASY MANNER AND LOOK THE AUDIENCE OVER... NOT A BAD HOUSE... NOT BAD'. Panel 4: 'NOW FOR A LITTLE FANCY WORK, I'LL BET THE AUDIENCE WATCHES ME AS MUCH AS ANY OF THESE BUM ACTORS'. Below panels 1 and 2: 'I'LL SMILE AT THE PRINCIPAL ACTOR OCCASIONALLY JUST SO THE AUDIENCE'LL REALIZE I KNOW 'EM. IT MAKES AN IMPRESSION'. Below panels 3 and 4: 'IT FLATTERS THE ACTOR TO HELLO—THERE'S CAMILLE AND ELLA BACK AGAIN, I'LL GIVE THEM A SMILE TOO JUST TO SHOW 'EM I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN 'EM'. Panel 5: 'I WONDER WHO CAMILLE IS FLIRTING WITH IN THE AUDIENCE. I'LL GIVE HIM A NASTY LOOK AND SQUELCH 'IM'. Panel 6: 'WELL I'VE PUT THAT ACT OVER AGAIN, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'D DO WITHOUT ME'.

SHIPYARDS HAVE 8-CLUB CIRCUIT

Schedule Committee Appointed and Season Will Probably Start April 26

BALTIMORE IS ADMITTED

The Delaware River Shipyard Baseball League is ready to start the season and instead of a six-club circuit as originally planned, it will consist of eight teams and according to the outlook it promises to be evenly balanced. The circuit is composed of Merchant, of Bristol, How Island, New York Ship, of Camden, Harlan, of Wilmington; Pusey & Jones, of Gloucester; Emergency Fleet, Chester, and Baltimore Dry Dock, of Baltimore. The latter yard has an all-star combination signed up, and will play Sunday ball at the old Oriole Park. It has four major league games scheduled for the season, and will play club and in its contests last year drew enormous crowds.

After Prominent Man for President

The office of president has been tendered to a prominent local baseball player, who for many years wore big league regalia, and when asked whether he would accept the position, requested that his name be withheld for several days to give the matter consideration.

Open Season April 26

The general opinion favored the opening of the season on Saturday afternoon, April 26, although several present were of the opinion that a week later would be more appropriate. A schedule of twenty-one games will be played and all teams must have a forfeit of \$100 in the hands of the secretary by April 1. The rules committee has adopted measures to see that all the rules are lived up to.

SCRAPS ABOUT SCRAPPERS

JACK HAGEN, the famous trainer, came up smiling this morning. For many months John has been working with the boys at League Island. As he is an authority on boxing, he devoted much time to this branch of sport. In the practice drills, he located one boy who possessed fighting ability. He was a member of the U. S. Marine Corps. This marine was so good that he soon was made an assistant boxing instructor. This assistant annexed the service title a few months ago when the judges awarded him the decision over Sailor Burke at the Service Club. Despite this triumph, the champion, Al Thompson, was unable to get a chance at one of the local clubs. Jack Hagen tried to convince the promoter that the marine had the goods, but it was futile. Finally Johnny Burns, of the Cambria, decided to take a chance. On Friday night, March 21, the service champion will meet Willie McCloskey in the Cambria semiprofessional. Then watch Hagen smile.

Frankie Brown, the rugged little New Yorker, will stage an all-bantam program on Monday night Johnny Murray will be in the ring with Freddie vs. Battling Jack Hagen. The promoter, Joe Tipitza, expects Johnny Tipitza in the semiprofessional, and the veteran, Battling Mack, Houghton vs. Joe Hendel and Eddie Keefe vs. Phil Franchini. Tommy Carey, the terrible, exhibits in Pennsylvania tomorrow night. This also will be an opening show, and the veteran, Joe Tipitza, expects Johnny Tipitza in the semiprofessional, and the veteran, Battling Mack, Houghton vs. Joe Hendel and Eddie Keefe vs. Phil Franchini. Eddie O'Keefe writes from Port Deposit, Md., that he expects to be ready for Monday night's battle. "I know I can do better than Kubane," writes Eddie, "and working hard and getting in grand shape to make my comeback fight" success. Jack Wetmore, who will second O'Keefe, received the same message. The National show for March 22 will present the program, Al Brown vs. J. O. Hendel vs. Freddie vs. Battling Mack, Houghton vs. Joe Hendel and Eddie Keefe vs. Phil Franchini.

Sure Things Go Wrong, Even in Boxing Game

Lou Swartz, Silently Schooled for Four Weeks, Walks Into Right Swing and "Cinch" Flits

DISCOVERED BY TILLMAN

SIX thousand and more persons witnessed the sudden downfall of a lanky youth at the Olympia last Monday night. But behind the scenes a pathetic story was found. Here was a "sure thing," groomed, tutored, coached, schooled and instructed carefully and with attention for weeks. But the dope went wrong, and to surprise of all present, he was defeated. Lou Swartz was discovered by Tillman, who for many weeks Lou Swartz had been working silently for his public appearance. Discovered in Minneapolis by Johnny Tillman and transported here by an ardent sportsman, the novice "find" was expected to perform miracles. Lou Swartz was a very cool person. He was out there under "wraps" for the first minute, the made an effort to hit and blocked everything thrown his way very carefully but effectively. When he received the signal to start, boys, how he did go! The referee, Young McFadden, spinning to the floor, and at the bell it looked very sad for the Allentown boy. Two minutes and fifty seconds of the second round found Swartz going just as well. Then came that "ten-second warning." Swartz's guard dropped, and he followed his guard an instant later. He was a certain winner a certain loser within one second. That one punch, also ended the ring career of the fallen youth. A half hour later, seated in his crowded quarters on the second floor of the club, tears were falling freely. As he slowly adjusted his collar, he turned to Herman Taylor, the man who brought him from the West. "Mr. Taylor, wasn't that a fine start?" muttered Swartz. "I made you look awful bad. I had a cinch, but the lights went out and I awakened in this room. The night with the game, I was disgraced before the crowd tonight, I couldn't face them again."

Molla Bjurstedt to Play Here Saturday Afternoon

Headed by Miss Molla Bjurstedt, the women's national lawn tennis, national indoor and Florida champion, a delegation of star women tennis players will visit this city on Saturday for a series of exhibition matches on the Wanamaker roof. Included in the party will be Mrs. Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman, of Boston, who ranks next to Miss Bjurstedt in the women's national ranking list; Miss Eleanor Goss, of New York, who gave Miss Bjurstedt quite a battle in the final fight for the women's national lawn tennis title at St. Martin's last June, and Miss Marion Zinderstein, of Boston, one of the rising younger players of the eastern seaboard.

Boxers in Cincinnati Must Have Close Haircuts

Cincinnati, March 13.—Frank Mills, superintendent of the Cincinnati Gymnasium and Athletic Club, issued a manifesto a few days ago that all boxers competing at that organization would be barred from the ring if they did not have a close haircut. Many a fighter who affected a bang on his forehead has received a bang on the jaw when his locks temporarily obscured his vision. In the olden days when a fighter went into the ring he had his head neatly shaved, but a fellow going into the electric chair, wonder how Benny Leonard would like to sacrifice his beautiful coiffure?

FRENCH WONDER MAY PLAY HERE

Mlle. Lenglen Anxious to Tour This Country and Meet Molla Bjurstedt STILL UNDER TWENTY

By ROBERT T. PAUL MOLLA BJURSTEDT, the Norse wonder, who is to the tennis game what Ralph De Palma is to the automobile sport, is going to be put to the supreme test this summer, whether she remains in this country and defends her title as the national women's singles champion or takes a trip to England to add the English crown to her already long list. According to the reports which are becoming more numerous as the summer rolls near, Mlle. Suzanne Lenglen, the French girl whose playing against the American stars abroad has renewed tennis interest in France, is bound to meet Miss Bjurstedt. When it was stated that Miss Bjurstedt would default her American title to try for the English one, Mlle. Lenglen announced she would compete in the London event. But since that time the Norse sensation has changed her mind and at present is undecided where to play in June. She told Joseph Jennings, chairman of the tennis committee of the Philadelphia Cricket Club, which club staged the women's championship several weeks ago, that she didn't know definitely whether she would go abroad or remain here. She still is keeping it a secret and the many women players who have hopes of winning a national title are on the anxious bench.

THEATRES OWNED AND MANAGED BY MEMBERS OF THE UNITED EXHIBITORS' ASSOCIATION

- BELMONT 52D ABOVE MARKET MELODRAMATIC PLAY "THE WHIP"
CEDAR 60TH & CEDAR AVENUE ENID BENNETT IN "HAPPY THOUGHTS MARRIED"
COLISEUM MARKET BETWEEN LINA CAVALIERI IN "THE TWO BRIDES"
COLONIAL Gth & Maplewood Ave. CORINNE GRIFFITH IN "THE GIRL QUESTION"
EUREKA 40TH & MARKET STS. FRANK KEENAN MATINEE DAILY "TODD OF THE FRANKS"
FRANKFORD 415 Frankford Av. JOHN BARRYMORE IN "HERE COMES THE BRIDE"
JEFFERSON 30TH & DAUPHIN STS. GARY DESLYS IN "THE WHITE LIE"

SHARP MAY COACH YALE

Reported That Cornell Tutor Will Succeed Tad Jones

New Haven, Conn., March 13.—A report was current on the Yale campus yesterday that Al Sharps, veteran athletic coach at Cornell University, will coach the Yale football team next fall, replacing T. A. D. Jones. Columbia Crew on River Saturday New York, March 13.—Although Columbia's rowing authorities were still apparently far away from a settlement of the coaching problem yesterday, preparations were made for the varsity and freshmen squads on Saturday for the first actual practice on the river. Harvard Nine to Play Cubans Cambridge, Mass., March 13.—The Harvard University baseball management has arranged for a game with the Cuban Havana on Soldiers' Field on April 17. Richard Grant, Columbia's athletic director of athletics at the Cuban college.

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CHESTNUT HILL 6320 Germantown Ave. KITTIE FLINN IN "THE GOLD CURSE"
EMPRESS MAIN ST. MANAYUNK MATINEE DAILY "LUCK AND PLUCK"
FAIRMOUNT 26th & GIRARD AVE. MATINEE DAILY "DON'T CHANGE YOUR HUSBAND"
FAMILY THEATRE—1811 Market St. 9 A. M. to Midnight. "THE GREAT ROMANCE"
56TH ST. THEATRE—Below Spruce BESSIE BARRICATTE IN "THE WHITE LIE"
GREAT NORTHERN Broad St. at Erie "LINA CAVALIERI"
IMPERIAL 60TH & WALNUT STS. HARRY JOCKWOOD IN "THE GREAT ROMANCE"
LEADER 181ST & LANCASTER AVE. MATINEE DAILY "THE TWO BRIDES"—"SCOUND"
LIBERTY BROAD & COLUMBIA AV. "THE TWO BRIDES"—"SCOUND"